



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

9th February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

What a fantastic half term this has been. We set out 5 weeks ago to create a culture of pristinely presented, well equipped and learning ready students wrapped in a culture of high standards and expectations, in everything that we do. Our student's ability to rapidly adapt positively to change has rapidly facilitated our drive to create disruption free learning experiences. I strongly believe that the combined efforts and support of our students, staff, parents and carers, and wider community have allowed us to accelerate toward achieving our first priorities. I believe that our students are among the best presented in the country, and our disruption free classrooms have stirred great interest from our local and wider community resulting in a number of visits from prospective parents. In the last week we have welcomed four new students.

Our progress this half term has created a strong foundation onto which we can build the next phase of our school improvement journey, the delivery of exemplary teaching and learning experiences in every classroom ensuring that every second of every minute of every lesson contributes to the progress of every student.

This week we welcomed our new Careers Advisor, Miss Sue May who will be meeting with, initially all year 11 students to ensure that they are focused beyond the imminent GCSE examinations. I am a firm believer that confidence in one's vision is a critical part of success. Miss May has already had an incredible positive impact on the students she has met with at Henley Bank High School, her expertise will be shared with other year groups later in the year.

On Thursday our Options Evening was extremely well attended. It was a pleasure to eavesdrop on so many inspiring conversations between students, parents, our teaching staff and leadership team. It was clear to see and hear that our students were thinking carefully and critically about the choices they are making. Our lean and strong curriculum coupled with a hard work ethic will ensure that our students compete successfully in the increasingly demanding world of employment. I have never had so many passionate and confident responses to the age old question, what do you want to be when you grow up and I must confess I still cannot answer this question!

On the football pitch our year 8 and 9 teams competed against Gloucester Academy. Our year 9's convincingly beat their very able opposition by 3 goals to 1. Our year 8 team fought a close battle but narrowly lost 3 goals to 4. By my calculations the combined score was Henley Bank 6, Gloucester Academy 5; our victory. It was a pleasure to get pitch side to watch such great talent and I welcome all parents and carers to join me for the next fixture.

Our Friday Fun took the form of a game of Quidditch. This spectacle was certainly new to my list of experiences and one I faced with both excitement and nervous curiosity as I saw students arriving with various imitations of broomsticks. The snitch was a site to behold and I foresee, based purely on the amount of fun generated, this may well become a feature of the next Olympic Games.

Finally this half term I wish to thank you all for making my start at Henley Bank an exciting and enjoyable experience. Your support and your constructive critique is always welcomed, it is a vital ingredient that will lead to the success of our students, and of our staff.

I wish our students and staff a fantastic half term and welcome you to explore our new website www.henleybankhighschool.co.uk. Please note this site is a live and currently embryonic in form and as such more and more information will be uploaded over time for your perusal. This will eventually become your first point of contact for all things, Henley Bank High School.

Yours sincerely

Mr B. Nash
Head of School